out of Centaur Hotel, Delhi due to deteriorating conditions. The Airbus sets have been staying. Presently, one set of Airbus 310 crew is staying four days a week based on the pattern of the crew layover. With the initiation of several steps to improve the infrastructure and facilities including rennovation of 100 rooms at Centaur Hotel. Delhi, HCI is in dialogue with Air India to shift the crew back to Centaur Hotel.

Additional Air Routes from Ahmedabad Airport

1999. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sardar Vallabhabhai International Airport, Ahmedabad will be allotted additional Air routes and will function as a fullfledged Airport;

(b) the time by which construction of runway would be completed;

(c) the time by which the additional routes will start functioning; and

(d) the details of new routes which have been planned to start?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Sardar Vallabha Bhai International Airport, Ahmedabad is a fullfledged airport. Extension of runway to 11,500 feet along with apron expansion and strengthening is scheduled to be completed by April, 2000. Indian carriers are free to operate any number of services to/from Ahmedabad in accordance with their commercial judgement.

Unearthing of Unmetered call racket in Meerut

2000. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket of unmetered calls have been unearthed at a exchange in Meerut as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 26th January 2000;

(b) if so, the details for modus operandi of the racket;

(c) the estimated losses suffered by Government due to this specific racket;

(d) whether similar rackets of unmetered call are flourishing in other cities and towns also in connivance with the Telecom officials; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government to check such rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. No such racket as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 26th January, 2000 has been detected.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(d) and (e) Some incidents get reported wherein misuse of STD ISD facilities have been noticed involving different *modus operandi*. Involvement of telecom officials, if any, is promptly investigated and suitable action taken in each case. Besides, critical studies of different technologies have been made and suitable modifications in the systems have been decided and implemented to stop such misuse. All field Offices have also been instructed to keep special watch on such possible misuse.

Kannada Telephone Directory

2001. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore Telecom District has launched Kannada Telephone Directory last year;

(b) if so, the number of copies printed and those distributed so far;

(c) the total number of customers in Bangalore city and Rural Telecom District;

(d) whether Karnataka Government and its public sector Undertakings, Boards and Corporations based in Bangalore have taken Kannada copies;

(e) how many Kannada copies proposed to be printed during the next year; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to ensure that large number of Kannada copies are taken by the people and Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 20,000 copies were printed and all distributed to the subscribers.

(c) The total number of customers in Bangalore city and Bangalore rural, as on 29.2.2000 are 5,75,290 and 62,999 respectively.

(d) Sir, while the state government have taken the required number of copies of Kannada Telephone directory, more than 60% of the copies have been distributed to the subscribers in rural areas of Bangalore Telecom District.